

Media Release



Hampton Division of Fire and Rescue



PUBLIC INFORMATION OFFICER

DATE:	December 5, 2013	PIO LOG NO.:	13-1205
CONTACT:	Captain Jeffrey Pereira, Public Information Officer		
CELL #:	757-810-2745	EMAIL:	jpereira@hampton.gov
RELEASE TYPE:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> For Immediate Release <input type="checkbox"/> Release On:		

Holiday & Winter Fire Prevention Message

The winter holiday season is upon us and unfortunately, it is also a time of increased fire potential because of electrical lighting, cooking, warming devices, and Christmas trees. The following suggestions are to assist in reducing the chance of a fire.

Holiday lights

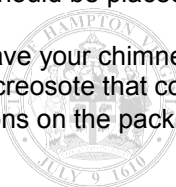
- Check your light strings for damage and replace any worn sets before hanging them for the season.
- Use only approved lighting. Look for the Underwriters Laboratories (UL) label.
- Ensure all electric lights and connections are secure. Turn off all lights when leaving your home or retiring for the night.
- NEVER use lighted candles on or near a Christmas tree.
- Hang outdoor lights with the bulb pointing down to prevent moisture from entering the sockets.

Christmas Trees

- When picking a tree, look for needles that will bend easily without breaking. This is a good indication the tree is fresh.
- Store your tree in a cool, sheltered place until ready to set-up.
- Cut about three centimeters off the end to open the tree stem and allow for water intake.
- Be sure to place your tree away from any exit in the room so that you can escape safely if required.
- Check the water level in the reservoir each day, as fresh trees use a great deal of water the first few days.
- Once you notice needles starting to fall from the tree, it is time to remove the tree from the home.

Fireplace and Chimney Care

- Always use a proper fitting fireplace screen or glass doors to prevent flying sparks or the logs from rolling out and igniting nearby combustibles.
- When cleaning your fireplace, ashes should be placed in metal containers stored outside your home.
- As required by Hampton Fire Code, have your chimney professionally cleaned and inspected at least once a year to remove soot and creosote that could ignite and burn.
- If burning artificial logs follow instructions on the package.



Citizens First Because WE Care!

Media Release



Hampton Division of Fire and Rescue



PUBLIC INFORMATION OFFICER

Use of Fuel-powered Appliances Indoors

- Don't use anything indoors that burns fuel, such as gasoline-powered generators, camp stoves and lanterns, or charcoal grills.
- Opening doors and windows or using fans won't prevent a buildup of carbon monoxide.
- Have your vents and chimneys checked to make sure water heater and gas furnace exhausts aren't blocked.

Kitchen Safety

- If you must leave the kitchen when you're cooking, turn off the stove and remove the pot from the burner, especially if you are using oil or high temperatures. A cooking fire can start in a flash, so keep an eye on your fries and **STAND BY YOUR PAN!**

Smoke Alarms & Fire Extinguishers

- If you are looking for that special gift for family or friends, what better way to show you care than to give a smoke alarm or fire extinguisher! Battery operated smoke alarms can be real life savers.
- When purchasing smoke alarms, look for the ULC/UL label which assures they meet safety requirements.
- The Hampton Fire Code requires a smoke alarm outside every sleeping area.
- A multi-purpose dry chemical type fire extinguisher is recommended because it can handle most small fires.
- Look for the ULC/UL label which assures the extinguisher meets safety requirements.
- Mount the extinguisher in an accessible place, preferably near an exit.
- Every home, car, boat, cottage, camper should have a fire extinguisher.
- Smoke Alarms and Fire Extinguishers make great house warming gifts.

For fire safety tips to improve your well-being and people in your care, contact the Hampton Fire Prevention Section at 727-1210. Education is the answer to Fire Prevention.

End



Citizens First Because WE Care!